

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

Claims 1-51 (canceled).

52. (currently amended) A method for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

qualifying suppliers, parts, and technologies in a collaborative network environment via a web-based user interface and shared data repository, said qualifying suppliers, parts, and technologies including:

acquiring supplier capabilities, part data, and supplier technology data from at least one collaborative source via said web-based user interface, said collaborative source including a supplier, a manufacturing representative, and at least one of an electronic catalog and a commercial data repository;

storing acquired data in said shared data repository, said acquired data accessible to affected collaborative sources; and

performing quality management functions via said web-based user interface and shared data repository, said quality management functions including at least one of:

managing identified changes to a supplier product;

managing process changes proposed by a supplier; and

assessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;

wherein said performing quality management functions includes:

identifying potential problems relating to a supplier;

alerting affected collaborative sources of said potential problems;

notifying management;

collaborating with said supplier associated with said potential problems for determining a resolution; and

generating a problem report.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein problem reports are categorized by at least one of:

supplier;

problem reports that have been open for more than one month;

problem reports of a critical nature; and

problem reports related to a particular final product.

54-79 (cancelled)